

Message Text

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SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON GV ROMANOV

1. SUMMARY. G V ROMANOV, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF POLITBURO AND OVERLORD OF LENINGRAD, RECEIVED ME FOR A FAREWELL CALL AUGUST 28. ROMANOV EXPRESSED HIMSELF FORCEFULLY ON THE NEED FOR A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND BREZHNEV FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ON SALT II. END SUMMARY.

2. ROMANOV STARTED OFF BY SAYING THAT PERIOD OF OPENING US CONGEN HERE COINCIDED WITH A DECISIVE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT WHATEVER THE US PUBLIC THOUGHT OF PRESIDENT NIXON NOW, HISTORY WILL HAVE TO CREDIT HIM FOR THE ENORMOUS TASK OF BRINGING ABOUT A NECESSARY ACCOMMODATION OF THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES. ROMANOV COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS DISPARATEMENT OF THE PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND NIXON IN THE WEST. BUT ON THE CONTRARY, THIS PERSONAL CONTACT HAD BEEN ESSENTIAL TO END THE PREVIOUS COLD WAR RELATIONSHIP. VERY IMPORTANT HAD BEEN NIXON'S UNDERSTANDING THAT HE HAD TO DEAL WITH BREZHNEV. PREVIOUSLY THE ROLE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY IN THE USSR APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN CORRECTLY ASSESSED. IN ANY EVENT RSXANOV SAID HE HOPED NIXON WOULD BE SPARED THE ORDEAL OF A TRIAL.

3. ROMANOV ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT FORD WAS GOING TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND ADDED, RHETORICALLY, THAT THIS

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WOULD BE BAD FOR THE PROSPECTS OF FURTHER PROGRESS ON SALT.

ROMANOV SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV TO HAVE PERSONAL CONTACT AND, WITHOUT SAYING SO IN AS MANY WORDS, SUGGESTED THAT WITHOUT A PERSONAL FEEL FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SOVIET SIDE TO REACH SIGNIFICANT AGREEMENTS IN THE SALT AREA.

4. I RESPONDED THAT WE HAD THE SAME SECRETARY OF STATE AND SAME FOREIGN POLICIES AS BEFORE AND THAT THE STABILITY OF BOTH OUR FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNAL SYSTEM HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY RECENT EVENTS.

5. REOMANOV COMMENTED THAT THE TRADE BILL HAD BEEN DRAGGING ALONG FOR SO LONG THAT IT WAS PINCHING SOVIET ECONOMIC PLANNING. HE SAID THAT CAPITAL INVESTMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE FOR POTENTIAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS NORTH STAR, WAS CERTAINLY NO LESS THAN ON THE US SIDE. UNLESS THE GENERAL QUESTION IS SOLVED WITHOUT MUCH MORE DELAY, SOME RE-THINKING ABOUT RELATIVE PRIORITIES, MAINLY ON THE DIRECTION OF LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIAN RESOURCES, WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE. THE WEIGHT OF THE SOVIET PLANNING SYSTEM TENDED TO DICTATE DECISIONS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IF THERE WAS TOO MUCH UNCERTAINTY OVER EXTERNAL ACTIONS.

6. ROMANOV SAID THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAS DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF US INTERNAL POLITICAL BALANCES, BUT IT SADLY FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHY THESE CAN NOT BE MASTERED WHEN ECONOMIC PROJECTS OF VITAL INTEREST FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT ARE INVOLVED. HE SAID THE USSR CAN NOT, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, ACCEPT CONDITIONS REGARDING ITS INTERNAL POLICY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE. BUT HE AGREED WITH MY OBSERVATIONS THAT DIPLOMATIC AND/OR PARLIAMENTARY MEANS COULD BE MADE TO PREVAIL OVER RIGID PUBLIC POSTURES.

7. ROMANOV INTIMATED THAT HE HAD INTERVENED PERSONALLY TO BREAD-THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC LEVELS TO PROVIDE US WITH GOOD BUILDINGS HERE IN LENINGRAD. HE SAID WE HAD RECEIVED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. HE ADDED THAT THE US CONGEN WOULD BE REMEMBERED FOR A LONG TIME FOR PATIENT AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

8. COMMENT. ON AN EARLIER CALL ON ROMANOV AND DURING OTHER BRIEF, CHANCE MEETINGS, HE APPEARED RELUCTANT TO HAVE ANY KIND SECRET

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OF DIALOGUE. ON AUGUST 28 HE WAS DECISIVE, FORECEFUL, AND READY TO GIVE AND TAKE.

ROMANOV GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING STRONGLY HITCHED TO BREZHNEV'S STAR. FROM THE TONE OF THE CONVERSATION, HE SEEMED QUITE AU COURANT ON SOVIET NATIONAL AFFAIRS, SUCH AS ARMS CONTROL, INVESTMENT, ETC.

ROMANOV SAID HE HAS VISITED CUBA TWICE AND CHILE (MENTIONED
WITH A REPRESSED, GOOD-NATURED GRIMACE), AND
CANADA.
GLEYSTEEN

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